

Message Text

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NEA/EGY - MR. BEYER

B - MR. BRAMANTE (INFO)

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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TAGS:TGEN, TECH, USEGJC

SUBJECT: WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT; RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

REF: CAIRO 8272, 7820; STATE 182877, 175467

SUMMARY

1. AID/DEPT. VERY APPRECIATIVE OF DETAILED ASSESSMENT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE PROPOSED FOR WATER MANAGEMENT TEAM AND FOR SUGGESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WATER RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT. (CAIRO 7820, 8272)

WE CONCUR IN GENERAL IN PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WATER MANAGEMENT TEAM, AND IN USE OF WATER MANAGEMENT TEAM TO SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL SECTOR SURVEY. HOWEVER,

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BECAUSE OF NEED TO ADDRESS AREAS OF WATER USE WHICH LIE OUTSIDE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WE SEE USEFULNESS IN PRESERVING

AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, MECHANISM FOR COORDINATING ASPECTS OF WATER RELATED R&D UNDER JWGTRD AS CONTEMPLATED IN JUNE MEETING OF THAT BODY. THIS MECHANISM WOULD BE CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH WATER MANAGEMENT TEAM AND AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP AND COULD HAVE IN PART OVERLAPPING MEMBERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO MEETINGS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN HELD TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF ROLE AND COORDINATION OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT GROUPS UNDER JWGTRD, PARTICULARLY AS RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL SECTOR SURVEY AND RELATED WATER MANAGEMENT TEAM. FIRST MEETING INVOLVING STATE, AID, USDA, INT, ERDA, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, EPA AND NAS CONSIDERED RESPONSE TO NOMINATION OF ENG. IDRIS BY DR. ISMAIL TO HEAD EGYPTIAN WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP. IT WAS AGREED THAT USG HAS AN OBLIGATION, UNDER JC PROCEEDINGS TO FORM A GROUP, ORIENTED TOWARDS BROAD WATER R&D AND TO NOMINATE A CHAIRMAN. INDIVIDUAL TENTATIVELY SELECTED IS DR. A.R. ROBINSON OF USDA. ROBINSON HAS BROAD EXPERIENCE IN SEVERAL ASPECTS OF WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT. NO OTHERS WERE FORMALLY DESIGNATED AS MEMBERS OF US GROUP UNDER JWGTRD. OTHER US REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS WOULD BE DETERMINED BY AGENDA AND SPECIFIC NEEDS. MAXIMUM LINKAGES AND COORDINATION WITH AG SUB-COMMITTEE AND WATER SURVEY ACTIVITIES THEREUNDER WERE VIEWED AS ESSENTIAL. THIS MIGHT BE DONE THROUGH PARTICIPATION OF SOME EXPERTS IN BOTH GROUPS.

3. RATIONALE FOR MAINTAINING SEPARATE, BUT LINKED, MECHANISM UNDER JWGTRD IS THAT, WHILE WE AGREE TO IMPORTANCE OF WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE, WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT OTHER AREAS RELATED TO WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT AND PARTICULARLY TO RESEARCH ARE ALSO IMPORTANT. THESE INCLUDE, ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS, SEWAGE AND WASTE WATER, ECOLOGICAL BASE LINE STUDIES IN NILE, SUEZ AND OTHER AREAS, AND NILE EROSION RESEARCH. MOST OF THESE AREAS INCLUDE ALREADY ONGOING RESEARCH WHICH COULD NOT BE GIVEN PROPER PRIORITY OR COORDINATION IN PURELY AGRICULTURAL CONTEXT. THEREFORE, WHILE WE AGREE
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WITH CONCEPT OF IDENTIFYING THOSE WATER AREAS RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL NEEDS WITH AGRICULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE AND SECTOR SURVEY, WE BELIEVE OTHER WATER AREAS NEEDING RESEARCH SHOULD BE DEALT WITH SEPARATELY UNDER JWGTRD.

4. SECOND MEETING HELD AFTER RECEIPT 8272 BETWEEN AID, STATE, AND USDA PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED MEMBERS OF USDA SURVEY TEAM. COORDINATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT TEAM, USDA SURVEY TEAM AND JWGTRD WATER RESEARCH WERE DISCUSSED. GENERAL CONCEPTS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WATER MANAGE-

MENT INPUT TO USDA TEAM (8272) WERE FOUND AGREEABLE;
ALTHOUGH IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT RELATIVE EFFECT OF WATER
VS OTHER FACTORS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION HAS YET TO
BE DETERMINED. TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION VIEWS PRESENTED
IN REFTTEL, IT WAS AGREED THAT TO EXTENT POSSIBLE JWGTDR
WATER GROUP AND USDA SURVEY TEAM SHOULD REMAIN LINKED,

ALTHOUGH DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING AT LEAST SEPARATE
MECHANISMS FOR PRESENT REMAINS. IT WAS NOTED THAT EVEN
IN CONTEXT OF LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SOURCES
OTHER THAN NILE, RESEARCH INTO POSSIBLE FUTURE USE OF
DESALTED WATER HAS A PLACE, ALONG WITH LOCATION OF GROUND
WATER AND INCREASED EFFICIENCY OF WATER USE. IN ORDER TO
EFFECT LINKAGE AT EARLIEST DATE, IT IS PROPOSED THAT
DR. A.R. ROBINSON SUGGESTED HEAD OF US WATER GROUP UNDER
JWGTDR BE IN EGYPT DURING PORTIONS OF USDA SURVEY TEAM
VISIT AS A PART OF THAT TEAM. PRESUME USAID WOULD BE
AGREEABLE TO PROVIDE FUNDING IF NECESSARY FOR ROBINSON
CONTRIBUTION TO SURVEY. WE IN AGREEMENT IN DESIRABILITY
INCLUSION IN AG SECTOR SURVEY TEAM OF ONE OR MORE OF THE
PERSONS SUGGESTED IN 8272. WE ALSO FORESEE PARTICIPATION
OF AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS OF SURVEY GROUP IN JWGTDR
ACTIVITIES IF DESIRABLE.

5. THE PARTICIPATION OF THE US CHAIRMAN, ROBINSON OF USDA
IN SURVEY AND THE POSITION OF ENG. IDRIS, EGYPTIAN CHAIR-
MAN WITH MIN AG. SHOULD INSURE COORDINATION AND LINKAGES
AND HELP ELIMINATE POTENTIAL FOR DUPLICATIVE EFFORTS
BETWEEN AG SUB-COMMITTEE AND JWGTDR.

6. AID AND DEPT. RECOGNIZE THAT AS PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH
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PROGRESS, THE ELIMINATION OR ABSORPTION OF THE JWGTDR
GROUP MAY BE DESIRABLE; HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT SINCE
NON-AG. WATER RESEARCH IS OF INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES,
AND THAT MANY ELEMENTAL COMPONENTS ARE VALUABLE TO BOTH
AG AND NON AG RESEARCH; E.G. WATER QUALITY, SALINITY,
EROSION, IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO GIVE EARLY COORDINATED
ATTENTION TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF WATER USE AND THE JWGTDR
MECHANISM ALLOWS US TO HAVE A FOCAL POINT IN THIS REGARD.
IN ANY CASE, EMPHASIS IN THIS GROUP AS OPPOSED TO

AGRICULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE IS TO BE MORE ON RESEARCH THAN
ON USE AND MANAGEMENT.

7. REQUEST EMBASSY/USAID ADVISE DR. ISMAIL AND ENG. IDRIS
INFORMALLY OF SELECTION OF DR. ROBINSON TO CHAIR US GROUP
AND OF TENTATIVE PLANS FOR HIM TO COME TO EGYPT DURING
VISIT OF USDA SURVEY TEAM. LETTER TO ISMAIL FROM DEPT
WILL FOLLOW. REQUEST EMBASSY/USAID ASK EGYPTIAN

VIEWS REGARDING CHARTER AND SCOPE OF WORK FOR JWGTRD
WATER GROUP AND HOW THEY SEE IT AS LINKED TO AG. GROUP.
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